

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 01321 282119Z

73

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 SAJ-01 ACDA-19 NIC-01 DRC-01

/151 W

----- 113769

R 281538Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5684

INFO CINCPAC

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION USUN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 1321

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CH, UR, VS

SUBJECT: SOVIETS SKIRT PITFALLS IN HEAVY PRESS TREATMENT
OF PARACELS DISPUTE

REF: MOSCOW 1036

1. SOVIET PROPAGANDISTS DEVOTED CONSIDERABLE
ATTENTION OVER WEEKEND TO CHINESE AGGRESSIVENESS IN
PARCEL ISLANDS DISPUTE. CITING MEDIA IN NEW YORK,
TOKYO, MANILA, NEW DELHI, LONDON, AND PARIS, PRAVDA
JANUARY 26 AND 27 PRESENTED PICTURE OF AN EXPANSIONIST
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 01321 282119Z

CHINA FLAUNTING UN STRICTURES AGAINST NON-USE

OF FORCE, UPSETTING ASIAN BALANCE OF POWER, AND CAUSING ALARM THROUGHOUT ASIA. SELECTION OF FOREIGN PRESS REFERENCES LEANS TO TWO EXPLANATIONS FOR CHINESE ACTIONS: DESIRE TO DOMINATE ASIA AND NEED TO DISTRACT ATTENTION OF CHINESE PEOPLE FROM INTERNAL PROBLEMS.

2. SOVIETS HAVE THEIR OWN PROBLEMS WITH HANDLING PARACELS ISSUE, AND THESE MAY EXPLAIN WHY SOVIET CRITICISM OF PRC HAS SO FAR BEEN INDIRECT. FOR ONE THING, IT IS DIFFICULT FOR MOSCOW TO PAINT SAIGON AS AN INNOCENT AND AGGRIEVED PARTY. MORE SERIOUSLY, IT APPEARS THAT SOVIETS RECOGNIZE PARACELS AS CHINESE. LATEST ATLAS IN OUR POSSESSION, PUBLISHED BY NEW TIMES LAST AUGUST, CALLS ISLANDS "HSISHA (PARACEL)" AND DESIGNATES THEM AS CHINESE. (IT IS INTERESTING THAT MFA CHINA EXPERT TOOK NEUTRAL POSITION ON OWNERSHIP IN REFTEL.)

3. SOVIET PRESS TREATMENT SO FAR HAS SHOWN AN AWARENESS OF SUCH PROBLEMS. TASS REPORTED SOUTH VIETNAMESE "WITHDRAWAL" OF REQUEST FOR SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING WITHOUT NOTING THAT SOVIET UNION OPPOSED MEETING. AND SOVIETS, WHILE PORTRAYING PRC AS AGGRESSOR, HAVE NOT PUBLICLY DEALT WITH QUESTION OF OWNERSHIP. DUBS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EXPULSION, PRESS COMMENTS, ESPIONAGE, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MOSCOW01321
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740112/aaaaakpq.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: MOSCOW 1036
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 APR 2002 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <29 MAY 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIETS SKIRT PITFALLS IN HEAVY PRESS TREATMENT OF PARACELS DISPUTE
TAGS: PFOR, CH, UR, VS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005